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TO : Members of the TSC
FROM : Executive Secretary, TSC
SUBJECT: Proposed CIA External Research Projects

DATE: 20 July 1953

1. As pointed out during a recent meeting of the TSC, the CIA is proposing to initiate two external research studies. One would deal with USSR railroad organization, administration and operations and would be produced by exploiting Soviet source material, and the experience of men who have worked on the USSR railroads. The other study would deal with Caspian Sea Merchant Shipping and may later be expanded to include Volga river shipping. It also would be produced by exploiting Soviet source material, and the knowledge of a man who has had experience in Caspian and Volga shipping. The studies will be unclassified, but it is contemplated that they will be directed by someone with at least Secret clearance.

2. Attached hereto are proposed outlines for these studies. Kindly review them and transmit to me by 3 Aug such comments, recommended additions or deletions as may be pertinent in view of the responsibilities of your agencies. It is the desire of the CIA that these projects take into account the needs of the entire intelligence community.

3. The CIA hopes to make arrangements with the contractor so that the various sections of the studies can be made available to users as soon as they are completed. If this can be done the usefulness of the studies will not be delayed until they are completed in all respects. Accordingly, recommendations as to the priority for the completion of various sections of the projects would also be in order.

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